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(Amended) An apparatus to monitor usage of an electrically powered device, comprising:

a circuit coupled to the device to provide a power output of the device;

an analog to digital converter coupled to receive the power output and convert the same to digital form; and

a controller to receive a user input, process the user input by establishing communication with a remotely located device to request approval of a financial transaction, and generate control signals in response to receiving approval, the controller includes a database of power profiles of the device and receives the digital form of the power output, compares the digital form of the power output to the power profiles, and monitors the operation of the electrically powered device by suspending a charge for usage of the device if the digital form of the power output indicates a halt condition.

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The apparatus of claim 14 wherein the database of power profiles includes normal operation power profiles, idle operation power profiles, and halt condition power profiles.

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The apparatus of claim 14 wherein the controller continues to suspend charging for usage of the device as long as the device is in halt condition.

17

The apparatus of claim 13 wherein the switching device is a relay.

18

(Amended) The apparatus of claim 14 wherein the circuit is a current to voltage converter.

19

(Amended) The apparatus of claim 14 wherein the electrically powered device is a copier.

20

(Amended) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the electrically powered device is a laser printer.

21

(Amended) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the circuit is an ammeter.

✓
[22. Cancelled.

11-18

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1 23. (Amended) The method of claim 24, wherein the first condition is an abnormal
2 condition.

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1 24. (Twice Amended) A method comprising:
2 monitoring an output of an electrically powered device; and
3 comparing the output to a database of operating profiles for the electrically powered
4 device to detect a first condition and to adjust billing charges when the electrically powered
5 device is in the first condition, the database of operating profiles includes regular operating
6 profiles and abnormal operating profiles, each abnormal operating profile to denote an abnormal
7 condition.

Cont

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1 25. The method of claim 23, wherein the database of operating profiles includes a
2 plurality of power usage profiles.

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1 26. The method of claim 25, wherein each power usage profile is a function of
2 amperage and time.

14

1 27. (Amended) A method comprising:
2 monitoring an output of an electrically powered device; and
3 comparing the output to a database of operating profiles including a plurality of power
4 usage profiles, each power usage profile being a function of amperage and time, for the
5 electrically powered device to detect an abnormal condition and to adjust billing charges when
6 the electrically powered device is experiencing the abnormal condition being a paper jam.

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1 28. (Amended) The method of claim 24, wherein the first condition is a
2 catastrophic condition.

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1 29. (Amended) A software module embodied for execution by a controller, the
2 software module comprising:
3 software to monitor an output of an electrically powered device; and

4 software to compare the output to a plurality of power usage profiles for the electrically
5 powered device to detect a first condition and to adjust billing charges when the electrically
6 powered device is experiencing the first condition being a paper jam.

1 ¹⁷
~~30.~~ (Amended) A software module embodied for execution by a controller, the
2 software module comprising:

3 software to monitor an output of an electrically powered device; and

4 software to compare the output to a plurality of power usage profiles for the electrically
5 powered device to detect a first condition and to adjust billing charges when the electrically
6 powered device is in the first condition, the electrically powered device is placed in the first
7 condition in response to an abnormal operating condition.

1 ²⁷⁻¹⁸
~~31.~~ (Amended) The software module of claim ¹⁸~~40~~, wherein the abnormal condition
2 is a paper jam.

1 ¹⁹
~~32.~~ The software module of claim ¹⁶~~29~~, wherein each power usage profile is a function
2 of amperage and time.

1 ²⁰
~~33.~~ (Amended) The software module of claim ¹⁷~~30~~ further comprising software to
2 record the plurality of power usage profiles.

1 ²¹
~~34.~~ The software module of claim ¹⁶~~29~~ further comprising a user interface software to
2 enable programmability of conditions to adjust billing charges for usage of the electrically
3 powered device including the first condition.

1 ²²
~~35.~~ The software module of claim ¹⁶~~29~~, wherein the electrically powered device is a
2 printer.

1 ²³
~~36.~~ (Amended) The software module of claim ¹⁷~~30~~, wherein the electrically powered
2 device is an appliance.

1 ²⁴
~~37.~~ The software module of claim ¹⁷~~30~~ further comprising software to record the
2 plurality of power usage profiles.

1 25 17
2 38. The software module of claim 30, wherein each power usage profile is a function
3 of amperage and time.

1 26 17
2 39. The software module of claim 30 further comprising a user interface software to
3 enable programmability of conditions to adjust billing charges for usage of the electrically
4 powered device including the first condition.

1 18 27 17
2 40. (Amended) The software module of claim 30, wherein the electrically powered
3 device is a printer.